A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, January 24. 1710.

I Am fully perswaded, I have wrong'd no Body in the Account I have given in the last Paper; and I do assure the World, if I am requir'd, I am ready to name Persons, Places, and Particulars, and have free License to name the Informers.

I come, now to Magistrates out of Towns in the Countries, and leading Men in Publick Affairs; such as we call Justices of the Peace, Commissioners of Taxes, Clergy-men, Bishops, Officers employ'd by the Government, and such who eat the Bread of that Queen, they thus betray; and let no Man but the Guilty fear me, *for I'll wrongfully charge no Man*, nor do I reflect on any, but such as I particularly describe; and yet the Greatness of any Man shall not prevent my just Remarks, let his Cloath and Colour be what it will.

For the Justices of the Peace, I shall begin at the *Northernmost* Point of the whole Island; and let not some in the *South* think the Journey so long, that it shall not reach them—— For the First, be pleas'd to accept of the following Letter, which comes from good Hands,

Hands, even beyond the very Isle of *Britain*— And who would think, the Contagion should be spread so far? The Letter is from a Minister in a Presbytery of the Synod of *Orkney*:

SIR,

WE are the Object of our few Friends Pity, while being thus remote from the Center of Justice, we become the open Contempt of our Enemies; who, tho' not many in Number, yet having the Power of Magistracy, are daily insulting us more and more.

It is to be remember'd, that in the Bounds of this whole Synod, tho' there are no less than four Presbyteries, and two and forty Ministers, many of whom supply three, four, yea five Churches each, there were not twelve Persons to be found who dissented from the establish'd Church, and the Success of our Ministry among the poor People was very great and encouraging. But about November or December, 1708 One Mr. James Lyon, lately ordain'd by One of the Exauctorate Bishops, and Himself not being qualify'd according to Law, but refuses to take the Oaths to the Government, comes into this Country, having receiv'd Encouragement from some of the Gentlemen of these Parts——This Man has erected a Meeting-House among us, in which he uses a Worship never known in this Country, *Viz.* After the Form of the Church of *England*—— This has occasion'd a great Division in this place—We apply'd to the Justices of the Peace here, in order to suppress this Jacobite Meeting, and last Week we address'd them in the humblest Manner, to put the Laws in Execution against them—— Soon after our Representation was deliver'd, the Justices consider'd the Matter of it, and instead of redressing our Grievance, they call'd for the Moderator of the Presbytery, who had subscrib'd the Writing in Name of the rest of the Ministers—rated him in a most angry Manner, for some Words in the Address, which they said were not justifiable, and therefore said they call'd him to answer for them—— The Words were these, That tolerating and Countenancing the *Jacobite* Meeting, was cherishing Disloyalty and Faction——— Which Words we happen'd to have a very good Authority for, being the very Words of her Majesty's Letter to my Lord Advocate, upon the Occasion of the late Invasion, commanding him to cause the said Jacobite Meeting-houses to be shut up——For, says her Majesty's Letter, Tolerating and Countenancing the said Meetings, is cherishing Disloyalty and Faction, which being answer'd to the said Justices, they were pleas'd to express no farther Resentment at that time.

Now, Gentlemen, who of you can be offended, when I shall say, that such Men as these do not discharge the Duty of Justices of the Peace, swearing to be true to the Queen; it cannot be true to her Majesty's Interest to countenance and encourage those who reject and disown her Government, and who refuse to swear Allegiance to her——— How can these Gentlemen take Oaths to the Queen, how can they renounce the Pretender, and abjure him and his Interest? This is such a Paradox, as no Man can understand, and I am perswaded, no honest Man will defend.

I do not delight in Examples of this Nature, otherwise I could enumerate Persons and Particulars; but the Thing is flagrant, the Examples are too many;

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From the *North* we may jump to the *South*; and as in one Part the Magistrates, so in the other the Clergy, are too guilty of this Piece of Contradiction, to swear to the Government, and yet cherish by these Things Disloyalty and Faction.

These are the People the present Age groans under; and I speak it with Freedom and Concern for the Government; let them take it how they please of me, I am not sollicitous. Till the Government please to think it worth while to take some new Method of trusting Magistracy with honest Men, and Men of Principles, they will never be safe. These Kinds of People are either for one side or other [illegible] swearing, abjuring, &c. And if the Pretender himself were to prevail, he would treat them as those that had deserted him; and they betray the Revolution-Party, by advancing the exploded Notions of Non-Resistance and Hereditary Divine Right of Succession, which blackens the inviting over and joyning with the Prince of *Orange*, as a horrid Rebellion, and the setting the Crown upon his Head, as a rebellious Invasion of the Laws both of GOD and Man. Who shall trust these People, and what Side will ever receive them?

I have been told indeed of a Dispensation given them by the Pretender, in general Terms for this Kind of Perjury. This is a blessed Language for *Britains* to speak, a Speech our Fathers never knew; 'tis Popery in Politicks, which may justly be call'd Anti-christian—— Princes may indeed dispense with our Allegiance to their Persons, but not with our Allegiance to our Country; this is a Treachery not to the Person of our Sovereign only, but to the very Constitution it self, to the Laws, to the general Safety, and can never be dispens'd with by any Body.

MISCELLANEA.

WELL, Gentlemen, I gave you a Specimen of Paradoxes from *England*. Shall I next present you with a few *Scots* Paradoxes? I am perswaded, you may find that barren Part of the World, as ye call it, fruitful of some of these strange Productions, especially since our unaccountable People united with them.

1. There you have the *Persecutor persecuted*, and the *Episcopal Dissenters* persecuting the Church of *Scotland*, being visible in a long List of intruding *Jacobite* Clergy, who get Possession of the Churches and Manses, and keep them by Force against the establish'd Churches Ministers.

2. *There is* Establishment turn'd bottom upward, or *a new-fashion'd Conventicle*, being the *Episcopal* Depos'd Ministers preaching in the Parish-Churches, and the *Presbyterian* Establish'd Church-Ministers preaching by them in Meeting-Houses.— A Paradox to be seen at *Kinghorn*, *Haddington*, and several Places in *Scotland*.

3. A new Project in the *North*, nick-nam'd *Toleration*, requiring a Liberty they would not enjoy, and seeking it on Terms they would not comply with.

4. There again you have Division and Union made consistent, by first passing an Act of Security for the Uniformity of Worship